



United States Fire  
Administration

# FIGHT FIRE

For more information on how you can help prevent fire deaths please contact your local fire department on a nonemergency number or the United States Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

# WITH FACTS

Recently your community was struck by fire. Someone died. As you continue to report about the devastating effects of this fire, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) encourages you to remind your audience that many fire deaths and injuries are preventable.

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and more than 25,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster.

The following life-saving tips could make a big difference to your audience. By incorporating them in your story now, while the moment is still fresh, you could help save a life.

## Did you know?

- *Each year across America, college and university students experience a growing number of fire related emergencies.*
- *The leading cause of dormitory fires is arson, and accounts for over one-third of dormitory fires.*
- *Cooking is the second leading cause of dorm fires, and accounts for 20 percent of dormitory fires.*
- *Having a working smoke alarm more than doubles one's chances of surviving a fire.*

Following these simple fire safety tips can boost survival rates dramatically. Please share them with your readers because knowledge is the best fire protection.

## DORMITORY & HOUSING SAFETY

### LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- 1 Provide students with a program for fire safety and prevention.
- 2 Teach students how to properly notify the fire department using the 911 system or other local emergency numbers.
- 3 Install smoke alarms in every dorm room and every level of housing facilities.
- 4 Maintain and regularly test smoke alarm systems. Replace smoke alarm batteries every semester.
- 5 Regularly inspect rooms and buildings for fire hazards. Ask your local fire department for assistance.
- 6 Inspect exit doors and windows and make sure they are working properly.
- 7 Create and update detailed floor plans of buildings and make them available to emergency personnel, resident advisors and students.
- 8 Conduct fire drills and practice escape routes and evacuation plans. Urge students to take each alarm seriously.
- 9 Make sure electrical outlets are not overloaded and make sure extension cords are used properly.
- 10 Properly maintain heating and cooking appliances.